

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 H-01 /019 W

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R 141637Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1757

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC PFOR PO (ROOSEVELT, MR. AND MRS. ELLIOTT)

SUBJ: W/W MR. AND MRS. ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT

REF: LONDON'S 2015 AND LISBON'S 803

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: WE ARE INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS A "TAX ACTION" OUTSTANDING AGAINST ROOSEVELT. THE MINISTRY HAS PROMISED TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS LATER.

2. THE DIFFICULTIES THE ROOSEVELTS ENCOUNTERED AT THE AIRPORT ON JANUARY 8, HOWEVER, SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY GOP SUSPICION THAT ROOSEVELT MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE MONEY OUT OF PORTUGAL ILLEGALLY. NEITHER THE TAX NOR CURRENCY QUESTION IS LIKELY TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE ROOSEVELTS WHEN THEY RETURN TO PORTUGAL, BUT THEIR RETURN WILL PROBABLY BE SIGNALLED TO THE TAX AUTHORITIES WHO MIGHT THEN INITIATE FURTHER LEGAL ACTION.

3. THE TAX ACTION APPARENTLY ARISES OUT OF BUSINESS DEALINGS ROOSEVELT HAS HAD IN PORTUGAL, PARTICULARLY HIS SALE OF QUINTA DOS CEDROS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE ACTION IS DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST ROOSEVELT AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. SINCE CLAIM ARISES OUT OF ORDINARY BUSINESS DEALINGS AND IS NOT ARBITRARY OR DISCRIMINATORY, EMBASSY HAS NO STANDING TO INTERVENE ON ROOSEVELT'S BEHALF. ALTHOUGH WE WILL CERTAINLY PROVIDE YOU AND THE ROOSEVELTS WITH ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT COMES TO  
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OUR ATTENTION, THE MATTER IS SOLELY AN AFFAIR BETWEEN

ROOSEFELT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL, AND ROOSEVELT  
MUST LOOK TO HIS OWN ATTORNEYS FOR THEIR LEGAL ADVICE  
AND REPRESENTATION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ROOSEVELT HAS A  
HISTORY OF QUESTIONABLE DEALINGS HERE IN PORTUGAL. GOP'S  
SUSPICION CONCERNING CURRENCY TRANSFER IS NOT WHOLLY  
UNFOUNDED. THE TAX CLAIM IS GETTING WIDE PRESS PUBLICITY  
HERE IN PORTUGAL, AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS ARE RECITING OLD  
STORIES OF ROOSEVELT'S BEING QUESTIONED BY CONGRESS  
CONCERNING AN ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST BAHAMIAN PRIME  
MINISTER PINDLING TWO YEARS AGO AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH  
A REAL ESTATE FIRM IN PORTUGAL CALLED TORRALTA IN WHICH  
THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD TO INTERVENE BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL  
AND CURRENCY IRREGULARITIES. ROOSEVELT HAS ALSO BEEN VERY  
CLOSE WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF RHODESIA IN LISBON AND  
ONCE INVOLVED THE EMBASSY IN A VERY EMBARRASSING SITUATION  
ON ACCOUNT OF IT. END CONFIDENTIAL

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INFORMING ROOSEVELT OF THE  
CONTENTS OF PARAGRAPHS ONE, TWO AND THREE AND INFORMING  
US WHEN YOU HAVE DONE SO.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LITIGATION, TAXES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LISBON00886  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750055-0761  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750242/aaaablpu.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** LONDON'S 2015 AND LISBON'S 803  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** W/W MR. AND MRS. ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT  
**TAGS:** CASC, PFOR, PO, (ROOSEVELT, ELLIOTT)  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006